

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub
§ 117

1. An absorbent garment comprising:
a body panel having a line of weakness extending across at least a portion thereof, wherein said body panel has a tensile strength of less than about 14 lbf across said line of weakness.
2. The invention of claim 1 wherein said tensile strength of said body panel across said line of weakness is less than about 7 lbf.
3. The invention of claim 2 wherein said tensile strength of said body panel across said line of weakness is less than about 5 lbf.
4. The invention of claim 1 wherein said line of weakness extends across an entire length of said body panel.
5. The invention of claim 1 further comprising a fastener member bridging said line of weakness, wherein said fastener member is fixedly secured to said body panel on one side of said line of weakness and is releasably engaged with said body panel on the other side of said line of weakness.
6. The invention of claim 1 wherein said line of weakness comprises a perforation.
7. The invention of claim 6 wherein at least a portion of said perforation is broken along said line of weakness.
8. The invention of claim 1 wherein said body panel comprises a nonwoven spunbond material.

9. The invention of claim 1 wherein said body panel comprises an elastomeric material.

10. The invention of claim 1 wherein said body panel comprises a front body panel joined to a rear body panel at a seam, wherein said line of weakness is formed in said front body panel.

11. An absorbent garment comprising:
a body panel having a line of weakness extending across at least a portion thereof, wherein said body panel has a tear strength of less than about 5 lbf along said line of weakness.

12. The invention of claim 11 wherein said tear strength of said body panel along said line of weakness is less than about 4 lbf.

13. The invention of claim 11 wherein said tear strength of said body panel along said line of weakness is less than about 3 lbf.

14. The invention of claim 11 wherein said body panel has a tensile strength of less than about 7 lbf across said line of weakness.

15. The invention of claim 11 wherein said line of weakness extends across an entire length of said body panel.

16. The invention of claim 11 further comprising a fastener member bridging said line of weakness, wherein said fastener member is fixedly secured to said body panel on one side of said line of weakness and is releasably engaged with said body panel on the other side of said line of weakness.

17. The invention of claim 11 wherein said line of weakness comprises a perforation.

18. The invention of claim 11 wherein said body panel comprises a nonwoven spunbond material.

5 19. The invention of claim 11 wherein said body panel comprises an elastomeric material.

20. The invention of claim 11 wherein said body panel comprises a front body panel joined to a rear body panel at a seam, wherein said line of weakness is formed in said front body panel.

10 21. An absorbent garment comprising:
a body panel having a line of weakness extending across at least a portion thereof, wherein said body panel has a tensile strength of less than about 14 lbf across said line of weakness and a tear strength of less than about 5 lbf along said line of weakness.

15 22. A method of using an absorbent garment comprising:
providing an absorbent garment comprising a body panel having a line of weakness extending across at least a portion thereof; and
applying a tensile force to said body panel across said line of weakness,
20 wherein said tensile force is less than about 14 lbf, and thereby breaking said body panel at said line of weakness.

23. The invention of claim 22 wherein said applying said tensile force comprises applying said tensile force after said absorbent garment is fitted on a
25 user.

24. The invention of claim 22 wherein said applying said tensile force comprises applying said tensile force before said absorbent garment is fitted on a user.

25. The invention of claim 22 wherein said line of weakness extends across an entire length of said body panel.

26. The invention of claim 22 further comprising a fastener member
5 bridging said line of weakness, wherein said fastener member is fixedly secured to said body panel on one side of said line of weakness and is releasably engaged with said body panel on the other side of said line of weakness, and further comprising disengaging said fastener member from said body panel on said other
10 side of said line of weakness prior to said applying said tensile force to said body panel across said line of weakness and prior to said breaking said body panel at said line of weakness.

27. The invention of claim 22 wherein said line of weakness comprises a perforation.

15 28. The invention of claim 22 wherein said body panel comprises a front body panel joined to a rear body panel at a seam, wherein said line of weakness is formed in said front body panel.

29. The invention of claim 22 wherein said tensile force applied to said
20 body panel across said line of weakness is less than about 7 lbf.

30. The invention of claim 22 wherein said tensile force applied to said body panel across said line of weakness is less than about 5 lbf.

25 31. A method of using an absorbent garment comprising:
providing an absorbent garment comprising a body panel having a line of weakness extending across at least a portion thereof; and
applying a tear force to said body panel along said line of weakness,
wherein said tear force is less than about 5 lbf, and thereby breaking said body
30 panel along said line of weakness.

32. The invention of claim 31 wherein said applying said tear force comprises applying said tear force after said absorbent garment is fitted on a user.

5 33. The invention of claim 31 wherein said applying said tear force comprises applying said tear force before said absorbent garment is fitted on a user.

34. The invention of claim 31 wherein said line of weakness extends across an entire length of said body panel.

10 35. The invention of claim 31 further comprising a fastener member bridging said line of weakness, wherein said fastener member is fixedly secured to said body panel on one side of said line of weakness and is releasably engaged with said body panel on the other side of said line of weakness, and further
15 comprising disengaging said fastener member from said body panel on said other side of said line of weakness prior to said applying said tear force to said body panel across said line of weakness and prior to said breaking said body panel at said line of weakness.

20 36. The invention of claim 31 wherein said line of weakness comprises a perforation.

37. The invention of claim 31 wherein said body panel comprises a front body panel joined to a rear body panel at a seam, wherein said line of weakness is formed in said front body panel.

25 38. The invention of claim 31 wherein said tear force applied to said body panel along said line of weakness is less than about 4 lbf.

39. The invention of claim 31 wherein said tear force applied to said
30 body panel along said line of weakness is less than about 3 lbf.

40. The invention of claim 31 further comprising applying a tensile force to said body panel across said line of weakness simultaneously with said applying said tear force, wherein said tensile force is less than about 7 lbf.

5

